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CAROL A. HERRMANN-STECKEL, MPH
Commissioner

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IMPORTANT NOTICE **Medicare's New Prescription Drug Coverage**

Our records show that you currently have Medicare (Part A, B, or both) and Medicaid. Effective January 1, 2006, Medicare will pay for your medicines instead of Medicaid.

1. What is Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage?

- Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is insurance for medicines.
- You were automatically enrolled in a plan.
- If you choose to change the plan to which you were assigned, you may do so.

2. What does it cost you?

- You pay no premium as long as you chose a drug plan that is \$32.33 a month or less.
- You pay no deductible.
- You have no gap in coverage.
- You will pay up to a \$5 co-pay per prescription. If you are in a nursing home you will not have prescription co-pays.

3. What do you need to take to the pharmacy to help you get your medicines?

- Take (1) your Medicare card, (2) your Medicaid card and (3) new prescription drug card.
- If you have not yet received your new prescription drug card:
 - Take the yellow letter you received naming the drug plan Medicare assigned you to.
 - If you changed your plan from the one to which you were assigned, take the letter you received from your selected plan.

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4. What can you do if your prescription drug plan does not cover your medicines?

- Plans will have a list of drugs they will cover. The list may not include your medicine. However, in most cases, a similar drug that is safe and effective should be available.
- Ask your doctor if he can change your medicine to a medicine that is covered by the drug plan.
- Your doctor or you can send a letter to your plan asking them to cover your medicine.
- All plans will cover refill prescription medicines for the month of January 2006.
- You can change plans once a month and the new plan will start the first day of the next month.
- Medicaid will not pay for any of your medicines except for certain drugs like phenobarbital, diazepam and some of the over-the-counter drugs like aspirin and some cough and cold medicines.

5. Have questions regarding the New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit?

- Call the drug plan's customer service desk. The number will be on your new drug plan card or on the letter you received from your drug plan.
- Call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.
- Call your Local Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-243-5463.
- Go online at www.medicare.gov.

6. Have questions regarding your Medicaid?

- Call Medicaid at 1-800-362-1504.